

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 12-21 have been added.

New claims 12-21 have been prepared to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention in better compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The informalities pointed out by the Examiner have all been corrected, proper antecedent basis has been provided for all claimed elements, and all claimed elements and the structural relationships therebetween have been more positively and more clearly recited.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the new claims be approved and entered.

CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 11 claims of which 2 were independent. The application now contains 10 claims, of which 6 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$252.00 for the addition of 3 extra independent claims is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby

given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,327,599 (Warmus et al), claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Warmus et al and USP 5,588,103 (Aoyagi), and claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Warmus et al. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 12-21.

Warmus et al discloses an apparatus in which there are prepared two formats for a document having a plurality of pages, and one format is selected out of the two formats. Information concerning an area in the selected format to which an "image object" is to be inserted is stored in "variable page files", and actual data stored in a database are inserted into designated areas based on the "variable page files". A document composed of various data is then displayed and/or printed. In addition, Warmus et al also teaches that the "variable page files" can be edited by a user.

Aoyagi discloses a technology relating to a document editor which records a document including characters, diagrams and its

logical structure, and designates display or non-display for each structure element in the logical structure.

As recognized by the Examiner, the teachings of Warmus et al and Aoyagi, or the combination thereof, may be used to create and/or print a document which includes data at arbitrary positions, using various kinds of data previously created and recorded.

The document processing apparatus (and computer program code) according to the present invention as recited in new claims 12-21 stores plural documents each including plural pages, with each document being created using a generally available application program, selects desired pages from the stored plural documents, and re-edits the selected pages to create a new document including various kind of data at arbitrary positions. In addition, the document processing apparatus (and computer program code) according to the claimed present invention can display and/or print without any limitations the created new document without using any control program specialized in controlling all processes from a data creating process to an editing process for editing the document including the created data.

As recognized by the Examiner, both Warmus et al and Aoyagi as well as the claimed present invention have a similar function of creating, displaying and/or printing, without limitations, a

document including various kinds of data. In the cited references, object data (image data) which is stored in a format previously determined using a document editing program can be inserted and positioned at an arbitrary position on each page composing a new document. In the cited references, however, data created using an application program which can not create the object data (image data) in the previously determined format can not be combined with other data created using other application programs to create a new document.

By contrast, according to the claimed present invention, data is processed in page units to be inserted into a document and not in units of object to be inserted in a page, and therefore data (or pages) created using an application program for creating a document including plural pages can be used with ease without paying attention to the format of the object data to be stored or management in a position coordinate of the object to be inserted onto a page.

In other words, generally the application program for creating a document and running on a conventional operating system can use a standard printing function of the operating system to print a page of the document created using the application program, and the document data output in a format in which the data can be processed to be printed in page units is in a standard format and can be combined with a page in the document

data created using other application programs. This function or technique is employed in the document processing apparatus (and computer program code) of the claimed present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that Warmus et al and Aoyagi do not disclose, teach or suggest the essential elements of new independent claim 12 such as "document data obtaining means for obtaining plural document data each including plural pages each in a format with a page number added, the plural document data being prepared using respective different kinds of application programs"; "storage means for storing the plural document data obtained by the document data obtaining means"; "selecting means for selecting plural pages from among the plural pages included in the plural document data stored in the storage means to create a virtual document"; and "controlling means for: (i) reading out the plural pages selected by the selecting means from the plural document data stored in the storage means, (ii) amending the page number added in the format of each of the read out plural pages in accordance with the virtual document created by the selecting means, and (iii) outputting the plural pages each in the format with the amended page number added for a printing purpose".

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Warmus et al and Aoyagi do not disclose, teach or suggest the essential elements of new independent claim 14 such as "converting means for converting plural documents into plural graphic data in page

units, the plural documents being prepared using respective application programs"; "designating means for designating plural graphic data in page units among the plural graphic data included in the virtual SPOOL file, and for creating a virtual document including the designated graphic data in page units"; and "controlling means for reading out, for a printing purpose, the plural graphic data in page units from the virtual SPOOL file based on the page information included in the virtual-document management file, when a printing operation is instructed based on the page information included in the virtual document management file".

And still further, it is respectfully submitted that Warmus et al and Aoyagi do not disclose, teach or suggest the essential elements of new independent claim 17 such as "converting means for converting plural documents into plural document data in page units, each document being prepared using an application program"; "instruction means for instructing editing of a virtual document"; "displaying means for displaying page information included in the plural document data of each of the documents stored in the storage means, when the editing of the virtual document is instructed by the instruction means"; and "editing means for editing the virtual document including plural document data of the plural documents upon an instruction on the

displaying means on which the page information included in the plural document data of each of the documents is displayed."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of new independent claims 12, 14 and 17, as well as corresponding computer program claims 19-21 and claims 13, 15-16 and 18 respectively depending from new claims 12, 14 and 17, all patentably distinguish over the cited references, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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